

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

District Department of the Environment



Office of the Director

February 6, 2012

Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III (Mail Code: 3RA00)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Subject: Withdrawal of the District of Columbia Portion of 1997 PM_{2.5} NAAQS
Attainment SIP Revision for the Washington DC-MD-VA Nonattainment Area

Dear Mr. Garvin:

On April 2, 2008, the District of Columbia submitted a revision to its State Implementation Plan (SIP) for attaining the 1997 national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for PM_{2.5} and requested U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) approval. The revision demonstrated the anticipated improvements to the air quality in the Washington DC-MD-VA Nonattainment Area and the efforts being taken to achieve the 1997 PM_{2.5} NAAQS by 2009. The April 2, 2008, SIP revision for the Washington DC-MD-VA area included (i) the attainment plan, (ii) analysis of reasonably available control measures, (iii) attainment demonstration, (iv) contingency plans for failure to attain the air quality standard, (v) mobile source budgets, and (vi) the base year 2002 air pollutant emissions inventory.

Air quality has significantly improved in the Washington DC-MD-VA area. On January 12, 2009, EPA issued a clean data determination for the area (74 FR 1146). The clean data determination suspended the requirements for the District of Columbia to submit attainment demonstrations and associated reasonably available control measures, reasonable further progress plans, contingency measures, and other SIPs related to attainment of the 1997 PM_{2.5} NAAQS in the area. The purpose of this letter is to withdraw those portions of the April 2, 2008, submittal. Specifically, the District of Columbia hereby withdraws the (i) attainment plan, (ii) analysis of reasonably available control measures, (iii) attainment demonstration, (iv) contingency plans for failure to attain the air quality standard, and (v) mobile source budgets, all of which were submitted on April 2, 2008. To ensure that the District of Columbia has met the requirements of § 172(c)(3) of the Clean Air Act regarding emissions inventory submittals, the District of Columbia is not requesting the withdrawal of the base year 2002 air pollutant emissions inventory, which comprised Chapter 3 and Appendix B of the SIP revision documents submitted on April 2, 2008.



As a related matter, the District of Columbia, in partnership with Virginia, Maryland, and the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, is developing a redesignation request and a maintenance plan for the Washington DC-MD-VA area with respect to the 1997 PM_{2.5} NAAQS. This request and plan, which will contain mobile vehicle emissions budgets developed using MOVES2010, is expected to be ready for final submittal to EPA in 2012.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (202) 535-2615, or Ms. Cecily Beall, Associate Director for the Air Quality Division, at (202) 535-2626.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christophe A.G. Tulou', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christophe A.G. Tulou
Director

cc: Diana Esher, Director, Air Protection Division, EPA Region 3
Cecily Beall, Associate Director, Air Quality Division, DDOE